NO MORE MOIETIES.

Mass Meeting of Merchants at Steinway Hall.

Scathing Denunciation of the Moiety System.

LEGALIZED OPPRESSION

Report of the Special Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

Speeches by Joseph H. Choate, Jackson S. Schultz.

The special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce which was held last evening in Steinway Hall "to hear the report of the Committee on Revenue Re-

and that there had been found a man, to use Lord Chatham's words, "of sufficient profileacy" to argue that the law of 1863 authorized the seizure of merchants' books and papers was constitutional, created a great deal of mertunent. His telling hits at the expense of the Custom House officers who, in conjunction with "a leading depredator upon the pockets of New York merchants," had the iniamous law approved by the Secretary of the Treasury; his denunciation of the spy system as an intamy and his assertion that the only way to amend the law was to attotish it altogether and "put nothing in its place" were loudly applicated. His respects to Jayne and "men worthy of his name," were paid in a vein of biting sarcasm that brought down the house. When he first ment oned his name the whole meeting broke out into hisses, showing quite plainly that Jayne, "the great imperial informer," as Mr. Choate called him, will by no means hereafter be considered either as the general delight or as the particular loy forever of the mercantile community. The speeches that followed were all brimul of facis and figures relative to the reign of terror which the importers have so long labored under, and though they, no doubt, were unable to give their hearers, importers themselves, anything new in the matter of the extortions suffered by the merchants by reason of the mode in which the law of 1863 is enforced, the speeches certainly served to wake up the increonants to the lact that they had certain rights which even the government had to respect.

As an expression of the general sentiment of the

The special committee to which the Chamber of Conmerce intrusted the presentation to Congress of its reslutions on revenue reform respectfully report that a
obedience to its instructions, and having joined to them
selves able counsel, they proceeded to Washing on of
the 16th 6ay of February. They were there met by
delegation from Boston, also assisted by counsel. A four
plan of action was surreed upon and the presentation of
the subject allotted. In response to request of the Committee of Ways and Means, through its chairman, they
appeared before that body on the morning of the Ifth,
when, after short consultation, during which Mr. Dawes,
the chairman, stated his mability to be present on account of argent private business in Massachusetts, the
hearing was posponed until the 3d of March. This arrangement was quite in conformity with the views of
the Secretary of the Treasury upon the fines and forteitures the last four years.

The Chamber as well as the public at large

your delegation, pending the primite of the reports the Secretary of the Treasury upon the fines and forretures the last four years.

The Chamber as well as the public at large remember that subsequent to this adjournment a special agent of the Treasury appeared before the Committee of Ways and Means and indulved in violent personal attacks upon merchanis who had suffered from the law and in deliamatory appersions of the mercantile class at large. It is not necessary here to dwell upon this subject nor to give to it an undue importance. An allusion is only made to bring out clearly the reason why an application to the Committee of Ways and Means for a change in the revenue system in part of treed in the victims. The personal element having however, been introduced into the controversy, it was clearly the judgment of your committee—a judgment concurred in by the committee of other cities—that it should be disposed of before the presentation of the resolutions with which we were charged by yourselves. When at last our nearing was had there were present the committees of Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and from the National Boaro of Trade. The case for the merchanis was opened by the counsel. had there are the merchants was opened by the counsel of the nost of the merchants was opened by the counsel of the nost of deep counter to the merchants was opened by the counsel of the nost of the molety system, showing its demoralizing tendencies and its unfortunate influence in allenating the affections of the merchants from the government. In this year where counsel was supported by the gentlemen from the Boston Board of Trade, who each in turn addressed the committee, and were examined in detail by

of the subject disposed of, your delegation

sence of frand.

The arguments brought forward in support of the various changes are too familiar to the mercantile community to need any lengthy repetition here. The embarrassment created to merchants by the selzure and detention of their books, arresting their business, injuring their credit, without, in cases of impocease, either reduces or reparation, is well known. Not so the general low standard of official character into which the Custom House seems to have tallen—a demoralization marked and wheepread enough to excite the comment and contempt even of the informers who profited by it.

With regard to the system of moleties, it is certain that there is no compensation in the amount of the general temptation to permit fraud as a source of profit to officials and information of the custom House seems of the information of the custom the profit of the custom the profit of the custom the nts brought forward in support of the axiraordinary period.

All of the committees laid great stress upon the limitation of torfeitures to the specific items in which traud or
undervaluation are proven, and asked that the tain
ahould not reach the whole invoice. Perhaps no part of
the investigation aroused more interest and diversity of
colinion than this, and from this very daversity there

The special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce which was held hat ovening in Steinway Hall "to bear the report of the Committee on Revenue Bear the report of the Committee on Revenue Bear the report of the Committee on Revenue Bear the report of the Committee of Commerce; A. A. Low, J. S. Schaltt, S. H. S. Schaltt,

or the kind ever again put in its place. (Applause.) You all remember what the famous Lord Chatham said about the great maxim of English liberty—that every man's nouse is his castle—and why? Because it is surrounded with a moat or delended by walls and ramparts? No. It might be a hut of straw, the winds might whistle through it, the rains might enter it, but the King nimself could not. (Great applause.) If that was a good doctrine for Englishmen before our Revolution is it not good doctrine for Americans under our constitution? (Cheers.) Now, the only way to amend this oonoxious law is to abolish it altogether. (Applause.) What is the great plea for it? Necessity—necessity, the tyrant's only plea. Even our District Attorney, on whose judicial judgment it rested to say whether a prosecution should be instituted under the law, receives his share of the spoils. And our present District Attorney went to Washington the other day and told the committee of Congress that he could not see how the government could dispense with it. Well, it must be said that the law was never thought of till 1863; and if the government and people of this country could get along harmoniously in the matter of revenue from the foundation of the government until 1853 I cannot see how they cannot get on without it in the nuture. The history of the passage of that law is well known. The law never was passed with the knowledge of the people of the country—t was what is vulgarly called a put-up job—a job put on the merchants by informers and Custom House officers. (Applause.) The law was passed in 1863, when our great and glorious Secretary of the Treasury that we had on that day was overwhelmed with the terrible prospect before the country—when the life of the mation was at stake, and he was anxiously devising the means of successful rescue; then it was that the leading depredators on the private rights and pockets of the merchants got up that law by the aid of revenue officials. Under these considerations the law received the nominal, if not t

caived a moiety or percentage who will coincide with Lord Chatham in that opinion. But, no matter whether the naw was constitutional or not, the way in which it is administered in this city makes it one of the most oppressive instruments of wrong and tyranny that were ever invented in a free country. Any honest merchant, if you please—and even in these times every merchant is presumed to be honest until he is proved to be a rascal—any honest merchant who discnarges a dishonest clerk or disagreeable porter in his employment is subject to the revengeiul feelings of the discharged employé. How shall he have his revenge?—that is the question. He turns his eyes immediately to the moleties. He has been with his employer many years; knows all the contracts that have been made in the business of the house; knows all the secrets of the books of the firm; all the little irregularities, all the technical grounds of forfeiture; knows of some entries made under an innocent mistake—some accidental omission of some petty charge for cartage, for insurance or freight, and he hears of Jayne, that great imperial informer. (Applause.) He understands that Jayne has made several bargains with other parties in his position, discarded clerks, and so he goes to Jayne's office or some other special agent worthy of the name of Jayne—(laughter and applause)—and he says to him, "How much will be allowed if I give you some information that will lead to large lorfeiturery?" "Oh," says the clerk, "I can make it as big as you please." (Laughter and applause). And so they arrange for a share of the share of the informer. That is what Jayne meant when he taiked of the \$280,000 that he had to divide with officers. He finds out that on some importations for three or lour years there is a screw loose some

ables item to de the effectually. His the maxim of the law that no one said be called on to couse himself; but that is ignored by the law, and the seture of books and papers is made the last timent of pennity and purishment. The law shall be seized and carried off whenever it shall appear to the satisfaction of the Judge of the District Court that a fraud has been committed. Then the seize all the books and papers relating to the supposed fraud. So they, get up an affidavit. Who swears to iff The diseared clerk? Oh, no: the pennity of the seize all the books and papers relating to the supposed fraud. So they, get up an affidavit. Who swears to iff The diseared clerk? Oh, no: the pennity of the special sagent of the Custom knowledge? Nothing; associately nothing. What does he swear He swears upon his information and belief that he has reason to believe that John law the servent of the servent of the pennity of the special sagent of the importer. That he was not the servent of the servent of the pennity of the pennity of the pennity of the servent of the pennity of meeting that that we had one of the pennity of the pennity of pennity of the long list of oppression and out of the pennity of the long list of oppression and out of the pennity of the long list of oppression and out of the pennity of the pennity pennity pennity of the pennity of pennity pennity of pennity

chant wishes to hand down to posterity the honest reputation of a lifetime, and was this to be fliched away from him by the government that he may have done much to uphold and maintain? (Caeers.)

Mr. Jackson S. Schullz was the next speaker. He said that the revenue officers of this district had charged the merchants of New York with petit larceny, with bribery, with having improperly induenced public officers and with having deprived the public treasury of its due. That was the indictment. Were they guilty or not guilty? He had put in the plea for them at washington that they were not guilty. (Cheers.) They should not allow statements to go to Washington without the antidote. He read a letter from Mr. H. B. Cladin, stating that some changes should be made in the Revenue laws, though some houses had been led into trouble from the perplexing character of the tarif. He regiled to that note, calling attention to irregularities at a certain former time, about four or nve years ago, and to this came a reply, stating that they had some correspondence with the secretary of the Treasury. That was all that Pheips, Dodge & Co. did. It began and ended with a correspondence. When Mr. Cladin stated that he never had any trouble in regard to the Revenue laws he was mistaken. The land freight on goods should be added to the cost of them, and when Mr. Cladin went down to the Custom House and was told he must pay he did pay. That was before Mr. Jayne and his religion of terror began. If this had occurred in Jayne's time Mr. Cladin's books would have been taken down to the Calcutta Blackhole in the Custom House, and if this had been done to hum he probably would have acted more in unison with his fellow citizens and merchanis. (Cheers.) 'Under the administration of Jayne Mr. Cladin's importations probably would have acted more in unison with his fellow citizens and merchanis. (Cheers.) The speaker referred in severe terms to Jayne, who, he said, had no objection to seize letters and private papers, even the letters of ladies. (C

The possibility of a new issue of inconvertible paper I regard with amazement and anxiety, and, in my judgment, such an issue would be a detri ment and a shame. - CHARLES SUMNER.

PATAL RESULT OF A BROOKLYN FRACAS. Death of Sigusmand from the Blow of a

Jacob Sigusmund from the Blow of a Stone.

Jacob Sigusmund fiel at the Long Island College Hospital at an early hour yesterday morning from the effects of a fracture of the skull by a blow from a paving stone thrown by a boy in the street, as detaited in the Herald some days ago. The stone struck him on the left side of the head, knocking him senseless to the sidewalk. The brother of the prostrate man procured assistance and had him removed to his home in the vicinity. A few days after he was taken to the hospital, where he was trepanned, and fragments of the skuil which had been pressing upon the brain were removed, affording the patient great relief and restoring consciousness, which he retained for two days, or up to within five days before his death. The assailant Crowe, who is only seventeen years of age, was arrested last week and arraigned before Justice Delmar, who committed him to jail. Deceased was about twenty-five years old, a native of Germany and a baker by trace. A post-mortem examination will be made and the inquest held to-day.

WASHINGTON.

Prospect of a Vote on Finance in the Senate To-Day.

LOUISIANA'S CREDITORS

Double Taxation in the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON, March 25, 1874. Finance in the Senate and Inter-state Transportation in the House-Gloomy Prospect for the Latter

Measure.

In the Senate the finance question was resumed in a lengthy and able speech by Senator Bayard, of Delaware, strongly protesting against an locrease of the currency circulation and urgently advoligations. Senator Conkling was again brought to Richardson, in which the Senator most positively contended that the issuing of the forty-four million reserve was proper and justifiable. Senator Sher-man, who does not take this view of the case, came into the discussion, and contended that the Secretary was unauthorized in law or in the intention of Congress in delegating power to him.

The bill to regulate commerce by railroads among the several States, which has been a fruitrul theme for several weeks past, was brought to a vote in the House this afternoon on ordering the main question. The yeas were 138 and the nays 96. Mr. Niblack, of Indiana, moved that the bill lie on the table, which was lost by yeas 92, nays 129. The hour for adjournment had arrived and all further effort to get a final vote was useless. When that vote is taken it will be very close, with the chances against its passage. The democrats voted solidly against the bill, with many of the leading republicans. Even if the bill passes the House the Senate will certainly reconstruct it or

Probable Passage of the \$400,000,000 Amendment to the Currency Bill by

The report of the meeting held in New York last night to protest against jurther inflation, has been a source of casual remark without the accompaniment of any serious consideration. The speeches of some of the participants provoked laughter among the inflationists, especially those made by parties who importuned the President and the retary of the Treasury, on one Sunday at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, to let loose the whole of the forty-four million reserve, and thus help avert, as they argued the panic of last fall. It may be truly said that the petitions and resolu-tions offered in the Senate for and against inflation have not the slightest influence upon the Senators one way or another. The determination to inflate is as fixed in the Senate as in the House, and it is expected that to-morrow a vote will be taken flxing the legal tender circulation at

A Bill to Authorize United States Circutt Courts to Issue Writs of Mandamus-A Measure to Relieve the Creditors of Louisiana.

Mr. Cox to-day introduced a bill in the House to authorize the Circuit Courts of the United States to issue writs of mandamus in certain cases. This is in the interest of the Louisiana bondholders, who are anxious to prevent the spoliation and confiscation of their moneys by reason of the socalled Funding bill of Louisiana. Under the decision in Graham vs. Norton, 15 Wallace, 427, the courts of the United States have at present no power to issue writs of mandamus. The petition of those aggrieved, headed by Morgan, Seilgman, &c., &c., Shows the total funded and unfunded debt of Louisiana to be \$24,283,886. The annual

Proposed Means of Paying the District School Teachers Their Salaries—Taxing the Citiz ns Twice for the Same Object. The bill in king appropriation for the payment of the teachers in the public schools in the District of Celumbia provides also that the government of the District of Columbia shall reimburse the United States by collecting a tax to an amount equal to that appropriated, \$97,740, upon personal property, including banks and other corporations. In other words, for the privilege of enjoying a loan from the government the citizens of the District are to be taxed twice. The bill is likely to be defeated in the Senate, as property owners do not like the idea of being compelled to bear the burdens of the bankrupt District govern-

The Louisiana Contested Election Case. Sheridan for the seat from Louisiana, and it is understood will report next week that the record spective cases has not enabled the committee to decide between them.

Proposed Modifications of the Customs

Mr. E. H. Roberts has recently presented to the Committee on Ways and Means three bills to amend the existing laws in regard to moleties to informers, seizures of books and papers, and what is technically known as damage allowances. It is understood that the bills have been prepared in and represent the views of the Treasury Department. They have not yet been considered by the committee, but it is very likely that their general principles will receive the approval of the committee, and that some such measures will be reported to the House before long. The Extradition Treaty with Ecuador

Officially Proclaimed.

The Extradition treaty between the United States and Ecuador has been officially proclaimed, and is Outfits of Clothing for Enlisting Sea-men-Petition of the Officers of the

North Atlantic Squadron. A very interesting memorial was sent by Secre-tary Robeson to-day to the Naval Committee of the House. It is a letter signed by every officer of the Wabash, Congress, Franklin, Brooklyn, Juniata, Dictator, Mahopac, Ticonderoga, Ossipee, Kansas, vessels of the United States Navy which comprise the North Atlantic squadron, asking that an outfit of clothing shall be allowed to our seamen. It will be remembered that the Hon, Leonard Myers' bill for the outfit was reported by him from the Committee on Naval Affairs, and is now on the calendar, and this indorsement of the justice of the measure will no doubt materially aid its passage. Rear Admiral A. Ludlow Case, commanding the fleet, forwarded this petition, urging the grant of the outfit in a letter of great force, and Secretary Robeson warmly approves the bill. Soldiers and marines are allowed their clothing, but in the navy its cost is deducted from the seaman's pay, causing much dissatisfaction and frequent descritons. The passage of Mr. Myers' bill will not only be just to the sailor but will aid the efficiency of the navy. Woman's Rights on the Briny Deep and

in Marine Registers.
The Secretary of the Treasury decides that in case where a woman is owner of a vacht there is nothing in the laws of the United States which can prevent her from being named in the marine papers as the master thereof.

THE FINANCIAL FEVER.

The Senate Approaching a Vote on the Equalization Bill—The Status of the \$44,000,000 Reserve—No Resumption Without Contraction—An Amendment Fixing the Volume of Currency at \$400,000,000-Pertinent Questions.

WASHINGTON, March 25, 1874. The Senate did little else of importance to-day han to discuss the financial question. Several petitions from merchants relating thereto were

fifty-one firms, and, as the Senators from Ohio had not heard of the petitions for more currency from that State, he desired to call their attention to this. He also presented resolutions for more cur-rency adopted by a large meeting of business men at Indianapolis, Ind. Referred to the Committee

on Finance. Mr. Ferry, (rep.) of Mich., said a few days ago he had the honor to present a memorial for more currency from merchants of New York, and one of the papers of that city had been pleased to question the fact of the petition being genuine. He feit thankful to some of the New York papers for publishing the memorial in full and vindicating

Mr. Logan, (rep.) of Ill., presented a petition of 164 business men of New York for an increase in the volume of the currency. It was referred to

The morning hour having expired the Senate

The morning hour having expired the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill to provide for the redemption and reissue of United States notes, and for free banking.

Mr. Schurz, (ib.) of Mo., moved to amend the first section of the bill by striking out "eightytwo" and inserting "fifty-six," so that the maximum limit of the United States notes should be \$355,000,000, instead of \$382,000,000 as fixed by the bill.

Mr. Wrigher, (red.) of Jowa care notice that he

\$356,000,000, instead of \$332,000,000 as fixed by the bill.

Mr. Wright, (rep.) of Iowa, gave notice that he would offer an amendment to strike out the whole of the first section of the bill, and insert a section providing that the amount of United States notes for circulation be fixed at \$400,000,000.

Mr. SCHUKZ argued against legalizing the portion of the \$44,000,000 reserve now in circulation, and said that it had been the intention of Congress to retire that reserve, and there was no authority for its reissue.

Mr. BAYARD, (dem.) of Del., opposed any increase of irredeemable paper money. He read from the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Ferry), then a member of the House of Representatives, voted for contraction.

Journal of Congress of December, 1863, where the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Ferry), then a member of the House of Representatives, voted for contraction.

Mr. Ferry, of Michigan, said he did so vote then, having yielded his judgment to that of the Secretary of the Treasury. He afterwards saw the foily of Contraction and voted to arrest it.

No SPECIE RESUMPTION WITHOUT CONTRACTION.

Mr. BAYARD said whether the road to specie payment be hard or easy it must be travelled. He did not mean to say that by contraction alone could specie payment be reached, but it could never be reached without contraction. He would never give his vote for any bill which proposed to increase the currency. As to the reissue of part of the \$44,000,000 reserve it was without the authority of law, and he could not vote for \$332,000,000 green-back circulation provided for by this bill, as it legalized that issue. He argued that it was a gross missioner to style any portion of the greenbacks which had been retired as reserves.

Mr. Frelixinghuysen, (rep.) of N. J., said he did not understand that any part of the \$44,000.000 had been cancelled or destroyed. The whole amount had been withdrawn in the nature of a reserve by secretary McCulloch. The law meant that they should be retired and go into a reserve.

Mr. Bayard said there was no question upon which there could not be a difference of opinion, and now that the Secretary of the Treasury was in sore straits for the justification of his fileral action, it was to be expected that there would be those who would side with him. He (Mr. Bayard) argued that there was but one fund which ever could be cilled a reserve fund, and that amounted to \$50,000,000, and had long since passed out of existence.

Mr. Conkling, (rep.) of N. Y., read from the debates of Congress to show that the Secretary of the ireasury was perfectly justified in placing the construction on the law which he did, and his action in reissuing the right upon him to construct the law as conferring the right upon him to reissue it.

back to the House fell to the ground, as the bill was amended in other ways and went back to the House.

Mr. Sherman, (rep.) of Ohio, said this legal discussion as to the right of the Secretary to issue the reserve was a loss of time. The notes had been issued and the government was responsible for them. There was good ground for difference of opinion on the subject, but he hoped it would not be discussed now.

PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

Mr. Scott, (rep.) of Pa., said after all the discussion on this subject, and having heard all the financial theories from the time of Marco Polo down to Amasa Walker rehearsed here, he utterly despaired of throwing a single ray of light on the subject. It was not his purpose to discuss the financial problem generally, but there were three questions which he would refer to—first, how and when is the pledge contained in the act of 1869 to be redeemed? Second, what character of currency shall Congress jurnish the people of the United States? Third, what quantity of that currency shall be issued?

He said with either one of these questions unsettled business would be unsettled. No sane man would say that the government could enter upon specie payment immediately, and as goid could not be given for notes he would redeem them in bonds of the government, which to-day are as good as gold. No financial system could be devised which would prevent panios. As to the character of the currency to be furnished the people, he desired to see currency redeemable in gold. He believed there could be a paper currency brought to par fit be redeemed in gold or bonds. That currency should be founded on the national laith. Before concluding his remarks Mr. Scott yielded to the consideration of executive business.

proceed to Mr. Schurz for a motion that the Senate proceed to the consideration of executive business.

THE VOTE TO BE TAKEN TO-DAY.

Mr. SHERMAN gave notice that to-morrow he would ask the Senate to remain in session until two or three decisive votes on the Financial bill should be reached.

Mr. Logan hoped there would be an agreement entered into now to commence voting to-morrow.

Mr. Logan hoped there would be an agreement entered into now to commence voting to-morrow afternoon at half-past two o'clock. If the time be fixed Senators would then be present.

Mr. Sherman submitted resolutions providing that after half-past two o'clock to-morrow afternoon speeches on the Financial bill be limited to ten minutes each.

Mr. Bayand objected. He said he did not desire to see such a rule adopted. There was a principle against limiting debate upon a subject like this. Were it upon an appropriation bill, involving no important principles, he would not object. He hoped the Senate of the United States would be the one place left in the country where the debate should be left to the entire discretion of the members of the body. bers of the body.

Mr. Sherman gave notice that to-morrow he

would ask the Senate to pass the resolution.

The motion of Mr. Scaurz to go into executive session was agreed to.

The possibility of a new issue of inconvertible paper I regard with amazement and anxiety, and, in my judgment, such an issue would be a detriment and a shame .- CHARLES SUMNER.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Testimony Regarding the Contracts for Paving Streets in Washington City-The Old and the New Government.

Washington, March 25, 1874. At the meeting of the District of Columbia Investigating Committee this morning John Collins testified that he had laid sewers, raised houses and done parking and other public work for the Board of Public Works amounting to about \$100,000 without any contract, except that about three weeks ago he signed a contract and gave a bond. faithful performance of certain work amounting to less than \$1,000, all of which was done and paid

for fifteen months previously.

Ex-Mayor Bowen, called by the memorialists, testified that the Board had taken away from his testified that the Board had taken away from his property certain pavement, bricks and fron railing, and that the District Assessor had reinsed to allow him credit for this old material for the reason assigned that a certificate had been issued against his property for the entire cost of the improvements. Subsequently, however, he had paid his bill, with interest thereon, and was allowed credit for the old material, but no interest on its value. Neither had he yet received the certificate which the Assessor said had been issued against his property.

which the Assessor said had been issued againsthis property.

Counsel for the District authorities at this point stated to the committee that no certificate has ever been issued against the property of witness. A recess was here taken.

On the reassembling of the committee Mr. Christie, for the memorialists, moved for leave to file a precept for a number of witnesses from a distance. The reason for the motion was an expectation to prove the leading facts alleged by the memorialists in their charges. The motion was filed.

filed.
S. J. Bowen, ex-Mayor of Washington, recalled, testified as follows:—The average price paid by S. J. Bowen, ex-Mayor of Washington, recalled, testified as follows:—The average price paid by the oid corporation for grading was sixteen cents per yard, and each contract contained a clause directing that the earth removed should be deposited wherever the commissioners of the several awards should direct, the understanding being that such earth should be ready for fluing the streets requiring to be filled.

Peter Menamara testified that he is an old contractor; was a large contractor under the old corporation; contracts under Bowen and Emery were not uniformly let to the lowest bidder; the price for grading was about eighteen or twenty cents per yard, and it was the universal custom of the contractors to use the earth taken from the

rial of the iron, coal and other companies of Ohio, stating that business there is in a state of stagnation on account of an insufficient volume of currency, and asking that the same be increased and free banking be authorized. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Morron said the memorial was signed by fifty-one firms, and, as the Senators from Ohio had

paper I regard with amazement and anxiety, and, in my judgment, such an issue would be a detri-

ment and a shame.—CHABLES SUMNER.

SANBORN'S "COLLECTIONS."

The Revenue Office "Assist" Him-District Attorney Bliss Admits Receiving Perquisites Under the Contract-The Great Sanborn on the Stand-The Committee of Ways and Means Refuse to Listen to a Restricted Statement from

WASHINGTON, March 25, 1874. The Committee on Ways and Means gave another hearing to-day in the matter of the Sanborn contracts. Mr. Bliss, United States District Attorney for the Southern district of New York, made a detailed statement as to the connection of his office with the collection of the claims under Sanborn, and parried with a great deal of dexterity the attempts made by various members of the committee to obtain an admission from him that the contract was made in bad policy and was unnecessary. He said that with the lights now before him he would not now make a contract; but that at the time it was made it was apparent that whatever should reach the Treasury under it was so much clear gain. He admitted virtually, however, that the great discovery made by Sanborn, the key of the whole position, was the obtaining from the Surrogate's office of the list of estates which were subject to the legacy and succession tax. He characterized that fist as a scoop net, from the contents of which the big fish, the estates, which had not actually paid the fax, were afterwards sitted out by comparison with the records of the Internal Revenue Collector's office. There was no reason why the regular officers of the government could not have obtained the same information, but it was like the egg of Columbus, which anybody might make stand on end after he saw how it was done. He expressed his belief that the \$64,000 col-

done. He expressed his belief that the \$64,000 collected in New York under the Sanborn contract would never have been collected through the regular instrumentalities of the government. It could have been, perhaps, but it would not have been. THE DISTRICT ATTORKEY'S PERGUISITES.

On being questioned by Mr. Niblack in reference to his own five per cent on the amount collected, he justified his course by saying that if, with the consent of his superior, he could at any time get money for rendering services not forbidden by law he was very glad to get it, and he thought that everybody else would be, except, perhaps, members of Congress.

Mr. Niblack said:—"Judge Noah Dayls testified before us that he dechined the same oner."

Mr. Bliss—I do not know whether he testified it or not.

members of Congress.

Mr. Nibiack said:—"Judge Noah Dayis testified before us that he declared the same oder."

Mr. Nibiack—He stated it before the committee. Mr. Bliss—I am content to have my position and that of Judge Noah Davis as they now scand before the country relatively judged.

Solictor Banfield followed Mr. Bliss. He appeared, he said, not in the interest of Sanborn, or any other contractor, but at the request of the Secretary of the Treasury, to explain the relation of the department to this contract question. Application for contracts to collect dects due the government had been made as early as 1899, and, although the Secretary and the Solictor were not favorably disposed to the system, contracts were given to several parties at rates of commission varying from twenty to flity per cent on the amounts to be collected, the contractors to pay all the expenses; but the invariable result had been that nothing was collected; at all events, that the government got nothing. The system was abrogated and was not resumed until the passage of the law under which the Sanborn contract was given, and less care was taken to himit the commission under that contract than there would have been if it had been supposed that anything would be collected. The Solictor was SHARPLY CROSS-QUESTIONED by Mr. Beck as to why internal flevenue Commissioner Douglass was not called into consultation by the Secretary and the Solicitor when they undertook to carry the law into effect, and also as to what authority he had to write letters to internal flevenue officers, directing them to aid Sanborn when the law required that he should aid them. To the first question his reply was that the law referred to "debts withheld" and not particularly to internal revenue matters, and to the second that the loca of assistance was that it should be mutual, and that Sanborn could not vey well assist the regul

members of the committee that the committee could not sit and listen to any partial statement; that he was present hot by order of the committee but of his own volition, and in accordance with his own request in order that he might make a infl and fair statement of all the circumstances connected with his contract. If he was not prepared to do that and to answer such questions as the Committee might desire to put to him the Committee would decline to listen to any partial or restricted statement.

Mr. Sanborn's counsel (Mr. Woodbridge, of Vermont), justified the position taken by his client, although he expressed his belief that nothing which Sanborn could say could prejudice his case; but still, out of caution, he thought it better lot him not to submit himself to the examination of the committee. He alluded to the lact that there was a gentleman present junearstood to be an Assistant District Attorney from Brooklyni watching to take advantage of anything that Sanborn might say.

The upshot of all this parley was that the com-

say.

The upshot of all this parley was that the committee adjourned without any decision whether sanborn should or should not be made a witness.

BOOK TRADE SALE. Second Day's Sale.

Considerable surprise was manifested by the at-

tendants on the trade sale now going on at the Trade Salesrooms of Messrs. George A. Leavitt & Co., Clinton Hall, on account of the large prices obtained for the publications of Messrs. D. Appleton & Co., whose invoice inaugurated the sale on Tuesday. This house was represented on the stand by Mr. Waiter S. Appleton, and it was due to his exertions that the books of this firm were so eagerly sought for. It would be invidious to make any particular mention of the offerings by this firm. Sufficient to say that their lines embraced scientific, medical, educational and classic works,

any particular mention of the otherings of this firm. Sufficient to say that their lines embraced scientific, medical, educational and classic works, roling as standard among the trade. Their invoice brought over \$15,000.

Yesterday's sale was commenced with the invoice of hiesars. Estes & Lauriar, of Boston, consisting of historical, botanical and standard works, varying from twenty-five cents to \$75 each. This was followed by the contribution of Mr. William J. Widdleton, of New York, comprising choice classics, histories and other works. Messrs. Little, Brown & Co., of Boston, followed next on the catalogue, wifh a fine selection of various publications, all of their own manufacture.

Messrs, Wilham Wood & Co., of New York, had a full line of medical and scientific works. On their school books a perfect raid occurred. O'Brown's First Lines of English Grammar," invoiced at 250 copies, over 5,000 volumes were sold at full prices.

Hinton & Co., of New York, had a small invoice of selected publications, which sold well up to the regular prices.

Great interest was manifested in the invoice of Messrs. Lee & Shepard, of Boston. A raid was made on the 'Oliver Optic' series.

Robert Colyer's works sold well. Elijah Kellogy's works, Mrs. Madeline Leslie's books, "Lattle Canary" series, "Sophie May's" books, "Dotty Dimple" stories, "Sophie May's" books, "Springfale" stories, "Sophie May's" books, "Springfale" stories, "Sophie May's" books, "Sories, "Professor Townsend's works, "Vacation Story Books," Cates & Woodward's "Encyclopædia of Dates" at \$15, \$15, and \$28 per volume. "New Handy Books" and new publications for the spring of 1874, besides other standard works, sold rully up to the lines and regular prices.

Charles Desilver, of Philadelphia; Mason, Baket & Pratt, of New York; G. W. Fisher, Rochester, N. Y.: Claxton, Remsen & Hafelfinger, of Philadelphia, each had good invoices in yesterday's sales, which throughout brongst full prices. Messrs, J. K. Pratt and William R. Leavitt were the auctioneers at the sale.

The possibility of a new issue of inconvertible paper I regard with amazement and anxiety, and in my judgment, such an issue would be a detriment and a shame.—CHARLES SUMMER.